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Deputy Director
Executive for A&M
German Documents

27 May 1948

1. Summary of the attached papers follows:

a. Several hundreds of tons of German documents are held by the Army in Germany which have not been exploited for intelligence purposes.

b. Arrangements have been made currently for shipment of only 15 tons of this material for intelligence exploitation by CIA.

c. German documents previously received for intelligence exploitation have indicated very poor screening prior to shipment, the greater portion of such material being of little or no value for our purposes.

d. Air Force and Navy have no further interest in this material. State, Army, and CIA have considerable interest from an intelligence viewpoint.

e. Neither State nor Army have competent or sufficient personnel to screen adequately and efficiently this material prior to shipment to insure receipt here of at least a greater portion of material of value. Both have indicated informally to Office of Operations their desire and willingness for CIA to do this screening on the ground.

f. Army authorities in Europe have indicated an intention to possibly destroy the remaining documents, particularly upon any indication of a possibility of their falling into Russian hands.

g. Office of Operations desires to send a three-man team to Germany and Austria to do this preliminary screening, and to insure against loss by destruction of valuable material.

2. The cost of this project is estimated at approximately \$4,000 for travel and maintenance expenses for the CIA team over a period of approximately 60 days.

3. It is not believed that the circumstances warrant action by the Projects Review Committee.

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4. Recommend:

a. Designation of the Assistant Director for Operations to obtain formal Army concurrence and clearance for a CIA foreign documents team to proceed to Europe for the purpose of screening captured foreign language documents not yet shipped to this country.

b. That, if formal concurrence is given by the Army, a three-man team from FDB, to be selected by the Assistant Director for Operations, proceed in the near future to Europe to complete this task and arrange for early shipment to the U.S. of those documents found to be of sufficient intelligence value to warrant their abstracting and translation.

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Encls.

- Memo 26 May to PRC fr OO, re Survey of Captured Documents Collections in Germany
- Memo 20 May to OO. fr Chief, FDB, Re FDB Screening Team to Europe

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

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